

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5420
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
WASTAGE OF RIVER WATER
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of river water usable for irrigation goes waste in the country and the river water that flows to Pakistan;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government for optimum use of river water for irrigation in the country during the last three years; and
- (c) the details of further steps proposed for the same during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) India receives an average annual precipitation of 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) which also includes snow- melt. Out of this, 3000 BCM occurs during monsoon. As per the latest assessment of the Central Water Commission 1993, the average annual flow in the river systems of the country is assessed at 1869 BCM. Out of this, the utilisable surface water is assessed at 690 BCM. The annual replenishable ground water resources is about 432 BCM. In addition, about 200 to 250 BCM can be utilized through interbasin water transfer from the surplus river basins to the deficit river basins. As per the Indus Waters Treaty, the entire waters of Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers are utilisable by India except for notional use by Pakistan and the entire waters of Indus, Jhelum and Chenab rivers are utilisable by Pakistan except for some used by India. The annual outflows into Pakistan through Sutlej are ranging from 1.33 BCM to 10.28 BCM (average of about 5.43 BCM) as observed at Ferozepur and though Ravi are ranging from 0.007 BCM to 4.10 BCM (average of about 1.97 BCM) as observed at Madhopur.

(b) Water resources development, implementation and funding for irrigation purposes is taken up by the State Governments from their own resources as per their priorities. During the last three years, additional irrigation potential to the tune of 5.17 million hectare has been created in the country. For optimum use of river water for irrigation in the country, the main thrust of the Government of India in the last three years has been on expeditious completion of on-going Irrigation projects. Under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), launched in 1996-97 with a view to complete on-going irrigation projects in time-bound manner, so that their benefits could be accrued at the earliest, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the State Govts. Have been provided in the last five years amounting to Rs. 5878.048 crore. Additional irrigation potential of 786.375 thousand hectare has been created upto the end of 1999-2000.

(c) Besides taking policy and programme initiatives towards long term action, steps contemplated/proposed by the Government of India for implementation in the coming years are restoration and rehabilitation of old tanks / minor irrigation systems through participatory approach; rationalization of water charges; formation of Water Users' Association and empowering them for collection of water charges and maintenance of water works; providing financial assistance for operation & maintenance of created irrigation and water supply facilities; bridging the gap between potential created and utilized through assistance to State Governments under Command Area Development Programme; regulating ground water extraction and implementation of schemes for 'Artificial recharge of Ground Water'; promotion of the micro systems for water harvesting through the traditional and the modern methods; popularizing 'Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting' technology; promoting methods of conservation of water through re-cycling and re-use; improving water quality in rivers and other water bodies; strengthening measures / programmes for minimizing soil erosions, deforestation, flood proofing, siltation in river beds, etc.